



Grafton Preservation Project

Phase I & II



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Description: The Grafton Town site accommodates several historic structures. Grafton is one of the most photographed ghost towns in the West. It stands as a testimony to the hard work, tenacity and determination of its early Mormon agriculturalists.

Location: The historic Grafton town site and the agricultural open space surrounding it is located on the banks of the Virgin River, 12 miles from the west entrance to Zion National Park.

Acreage: Phase I - 212.56 acres
Phase II - 7.97

Grant funding: Phase I - \$251,875
Phase II - \$71,075

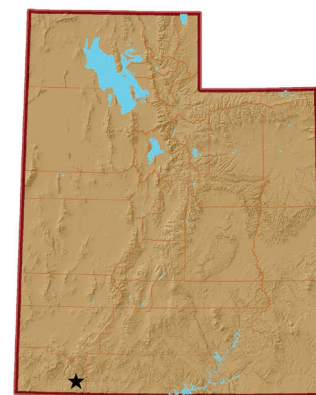
Total Project Cost: Phase I - \$1,401,875
Phase II - \$181,075

Grant Awarded: Phase I - July 2000
Phase II - November 2001

Partners: Town of Rockville, Grafton Heritage Partnership Project, Attiyeh Foundation, NRCS

Local Support: Town of Rockville, Washington Co., Rep. Tom Hatch, Sen. Mike Dmitrich

Conservation Easement Held by: Town of Rockville



Public Benefits

Historical significance: A number of historic structures including homes, outbuildings and irrigation ditches remain within the Historic Town site including the Grafton church/schoolhouse, the Alonzo Russell adobe home, the John Wood home, the Alonzo Russell log home, the David Ballard home and the cemetery.

Viewshed/Scenic Quality: The property inspires visitors with its natural beauty, its buried prehistoric and historic features, its fertile green pastures, its location on the banks of the Virgin River, and its stunning views of dramatic geological features of Zion National Park.

Water Quality: The Virgin River forms the town site's northern boundary. The sandy river-deposited soils support an impressive gallery of trees, plant and wildlife species, including one of only a handful of remaining stands of cottonwood trees anywhere along the Virgin River. The floodplain is to be managed for native plant communities.

Wildlife Habitat: The wildlife habitat along the Virgin River is of high quality and represents a relatively intact ecosystem.

Recreation: Visitor access to the historic town site.

Agricultural Land: Cattle grazing, irrigation of pasture land, fence repair, and ditch maintenance are all regular farming activities that take place in Grafton.